



COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



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Columbia Library Columns

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GEORGE A. PLIMPTON (1855-1936), donor of the Plimpton Collection.



COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



The Wide-Ranging Collector: George Arthur Plimpton

FRANCIS T. P. PLIMPTON

VOCATION and avocation do not usually complement or compliment each other: Theodore Roosevelt's bird watching, his cousin's stamp collecting, and Winston Churchill's bricklaying and oil painting had little to do with their respective governmental lives. Few men happily blend their business and non-business lives into a harmonious whole.

Columbia is, however, the beneficiary of a unique combination of vocation and avocation — the George Arthur Plimpton collection of educational manuscripts and early printed books. This was the gift of an educational publisher who, as he calmly put it in the preface of his "The Education of Shakespeare", had

"the privilege to get together the manuscripts and books which are more or less responsible for our present civilization, because they are the books from which the youth of many centuries have received their education."

The Plimpton Library came to Columbia just before the donor's death in 1936; originally housed in Low Library, it is now in the Special Collections Department in Butler Library. There a striking portrait of the donor, by Blanche Ames (Mrs. Oakes Ames) of Boston, presides benignly but searchingly over some

16,000 manuscripts and early editions of what he called "our tools of learning."

The collection, which contains many notable items, will be the subject of a separate article which will be printed in the February, 1961, issue. The focus of the present article is upon the collector as a man and as a discriminating assembler of books, manuscripts, and other objects of utility and value.

The collector brought together not only educational manuscripts and early printed books, but all sorts and conditions of things. In memory of his first wife, Frances Taylor Pearsons Plimpton, who died in 1900, and who was devoted to Italian literature, he presented to Wellesley College, her alma mater, the library of original and early editions of Italian authors which bears her name. Marion Crawford, in an address to the Grolier Club when the library was on exhibition there, said

"The collection . . . is one of the most complete private collections in the world . . . The generous giver who is about to bestow this precious library upon Wellesley College has labored with hands of love, and he has labored long . . . For my own part, when I view this rich and rare collection, I am inclined to esteem the love of the subject which produced it even more highly than I view the books themselves."

A catalogue of the library was published by the Harvard University Press in 1929.

Quite late in life he began a collection of contemporary portraits of English authors, which burgeoned into almost 50 items, ranging from the outstanding Occleve portrait of Chaucer, purchased at the Baroness Burdett Courtts sale in London, through a somewhat dubious 1610 portrait of Shakespeare at the age of 46 by one Lynde (otherwise unknown), a contemporary portrait (1673) of John Bunyan which was formerly owned by Robert Louis Stevenson, and a Dryden by Godfrey Kneller, to a pencil drawing of Shelley by the Lieutenant Williams who was drowned with him in 1822. The collection is now on the walls of the President's House at Amherst College, which is currently occupied by

none other than the collector's second son, Dr. Calvin Hastings Plimpton, the newly installed President of the collector's alma mater.

In a sense the "collection" closest to his heart was his collection of educational trusteeships. Foremost among these was that of Amherst, from which he was graduated in 1876. He became a Trustee of the College in 1890, and served as President of the Board of Trustees from 1907 until 1936. Few, if any, of its members devoted as much time and energy to the affairs of the College, and, a generous benefactor himself, he was a notable extractor of benefactions for the College from others.

He presented to the College an interesting theatrical collection, but, more importantly, an extensive one relating to the French and Indian Wars, and, in particular, to Lord Jeffrey Amherst, who gave his name to the town and the college, was the captor from the French of Louisburg, Ticonderoga and Montreal, and who, as commander-in-chief of the British Armies in North America, accepted the surrender of French Canada. The collection comprises a wide variety of broadsides, contemporary maps, engravings, original letters (many from Lord Amherst) and other documents pertaining to the wars and to the earlier struggles of the colonists against the French and the Indians.

The collection now covers the walls of the Lord Jeffrey Inn in Amherst, where it provides an interesting opportunity to visitors to that lovely town to study a little-known part of North American history. The collector was the author, incidentally, of the chapter on Massachusetts' participation in the French and Indian Wars in the Tercentennial History of Massachusetts, which was published in 1930 under the editorship of Albert Bushnell Hart.

The next trusteeship in his collection was that of his school, the Phillips Exeter Academy, from which he was graduated in 1873. He was elected a Trustee in 1903, serving until December, 1935. His gifts to the school included the Plimpton Playing Fields, the Plimpton Playing Fields beyond (a matchless collection of some

400 acres of athletic fields and woods), the Phillips Church (the school church), and, among other documents, the original 1638 deed of the town of Exeter from Indian Chief Wehanownowit to John Wheelwright. Once again he was an indefatigable collector of funds for the endowment of the school.

His trusteeship connection with Columbia came early. In 1889, when he was only 34 years old, he was a prime mover in the founding of Barnard College. Convinced and determined that New York should provide higher education for women — not then a widely held conviction or determination — he was one of the seven members of the Committee that succeeded in getting 52 New Yorkers to pledge \$100 a year for four years to start the College off — rather slender auspices for such a novel undertaking. Undaunted, the College opened its doors on October 7, 1889, in a brownstone house at 343 Madison Avenue, with a board of 22 Trustees (of which he was one) outnumbering the 20 students.

Jacob H. Schiff, leading member of the banking firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., was the first Treasurer of the College; when he resigned in February 1893, he was succeeded by our collector, who began an unparalleled career of 43 years in the treasurership. He inherited from Schiff two \$1,000 bonds and \$16,000 in debts. Imminent were next year's deficit of \$30,000, the expiration of the four-year pledges and the financial panic of 1893. Nevertheless by the end of 1893, he had closed his Treasurer's books free of debt — the result of his own and others' indefatigable efforts.

From then on his treasurership of Barnard was a continuous record of success in collecting money for the fledgling institution. He was instrumental in securing the gifts of the funds that made it possible for Barnard to move to Morningside Heights, and to build its initial buildings. In particular, through his friendly cultivation of Mr. H. W. Carpentier, who had virtually no friends or companions other than a collie dog, Barnard benefited by almost \$1,500,000. The College's principal building, Barnard Hall, which was given by the late Jacob H. Schiff, was also the result of his

friendship with Mr. Schiff, and his continued insistence on Barnard's needs. When our collector died, in 1936, the endowment of Barnard, a large part of which he was personally responsible for collecting, had risen from a deficit figure of \$14,000 to a credit figure of \$9,250,000. As the Barnard Trustees recorded in their minutes:

"A very large part of this money came to Barnard because of his faith in the value of the college, and his untiring efforts to communicate this faith to others. He had an extraordinary gift for conveying his vision and making his hearers feel that the chance to help was an opportunity and a privilege . . . but it is for his contribution to the spirit of Barnard that we owe him the greatest debt. He always supported the brave, the farsighted, the generous policy. He had incomparable optimism, sincere and understanding sympathy with women's desire for an education; and genuinely appreciated the honor and dignity of the teaching profession as represented in the faculty."

His collection of trusteeships extended north of Columbia to the Union Theological Seminary, on whose Board of Directors he sat for many years, and, in a different direction, to the Constantinople College for Women (now a part of Robert College in Istanbul), where again he proved himself a collector of benefactions. He was to a considerable degree responsible for raising the funds which provided the College's impressive buildings overlooking the Bosphorus. When the latter were dedicated in June, 1914, he represented the Trustees and made the principal speech.

Another trusteeship was close to Columbia, that of the Academy of Political Science, which he helped his Amherst contemporary Professor John W. Burgess to form, and of which he was Treasurer from the inception. Indeed for many years he was the publisher of its *Political Science Quarterly*.

The Church Peace Union was among his collections of trusteeships; he had been largely instrumental in persuading Andrew Carnegie to endow it, and he served as its Treasurer from the

beginning. He was also a Trustee of the World Peace Foundation, founded by his partner, Edwin Ginn.

No such a laborer in the vineyard of education could avoid a collection of honorary degrees: they came from the University of Rochester, the University of Richmond, St. Lawrence University, Amherst College, New York University and Columbia itself. At the conferring of the last-mentioned, President Butler said:

"... bringing to the calling of publisher in the field of education an exceptional knowledge of the history and literature of educational method; builder and interpreter of what is doubtless the most unique and most complete collection in existence of books and manuscripts to illustrate the development of scholarship in teaching; who rocked the cradle of Barnard College and now after forty years in its service rejoices in its distinction and prosperity, I gladly admit you to the degree of Doctor of Letters."

Several of his collections centered around his ancestral Lewis Farm, in his native Walpole, Massachusetts, an 800-acre farm which had been in his mother's family since 1742. There, for many years, he collected livestock. Determined to prove the clearly erroneous proposition that a New England farm can be made to pay, he consistently increased his dairy herd until at one time it numbered no less than 120 head. At this point, to the relief of his family, the cow barns burned down and, mercifully, were never rebuilt. Another collection was of black-faced highland sheep. He was fond of narrating the encounter he once had with a Scottish gentleman in the Knickerbocker Limited en route from New York to Providence. He was telling the Scotsman with great pride of his herd of 24 of these sheep, when the other, as soon as he was able to get in a word, blandly announced that he had 15,000 of them. The collector had his own sheep sheared, the wool carded and spun at the Farm, woven by neighboring ladies in need of employment, and then the cloth dyed with his own vegetable dyes. He wore the resulting somewhat shapeless homespun with enthusiasm and vocal pride.

He would take his own wheat over to a neighboring gristmill, and consume with relish the rather unusual colored bread that was baked at home from the flour.

He was an early collector of samplers, including several sewn by his own ancestors, and their lugubrious mottoes decorated the halls of the Farm. In addition to those from New England, there were some handsome ones from Spain.

Another of his collections related to slavery. This was composed of a large number of broadsides from the pre-Civil War South (where he had travelled in his youth, as a schoolbook salesman), announcing auctions of slaves, rewards for runaway slaves, etc. Among other interesting items were the log book of the master of an African slave trader and the will of a southern gentleman who recited that due to the war he had no property to leave, but that he gave, devised and bequeathed to all of his descendants, forever, an undying hatred of the Yankee nation. A large part of the slavery collection is now at the Phillips Exeter Academy. It used to decorate the walls of the large remodelled cowbarn which was attached to the Lewis Farm house in true New England fashion; also on the walls were numerous paintings, Currier & Ives lithographs, and other material illustrating the early history of New England. The floor of the barn was dedicated to badminton, and its owner could be seen, well into his seventies, smiting the elusive shuttlecock, albeit from a somewhat stationary position. At one end of the barn he constructed a stage on which the local theatrical amateurs disported themselves.

One of his unique collections was of cigar store wooden Indians. These have now become virtually unobtainable, but, with an unerring eye for collectibles, he would approach guileless cigar store proprietors and offer to take the wooden Indians from their front steps without charge. The result was an imposing collection around the courtyard of the Lewis Farm. Once he incautiously put one of the gaily colored tribe in the woods peering out at a nearby equestrian statue of an armed Puritan. Although

promptly abducted by some of the local youth, it was safely recovered after the insertion of a notice in the local paper: "lost, strayed or stolen — one wooden Indian".

A minor "collection" of his consisted of Chinese ancestral graves bordering on the then property of Canton Christian College in South China (now Lingnan University and in the Communist pale). He had a brief bout of pneumonia while visiting the College in 1920 and, in gratitude for his not having to enter the grave, presented the College with the most appropriate present he could think of — an ancient cemetery plot on the College's boundary which had prevented the latter's expansion. As a consequence of the same trip to the Far East, he presented a girls' dormitory to Doshisha University (founded by a Japanese contemporary of his at Amherst College) — not as impressive a donation as might be supposed, however, since the edifice consisted largely of bamboo. He also collected old oak panelling from Lord North's house near Oxford when it was being torn down and from other old English houses; and salvaged the brick fireplace from Sir Isaac Newton's house in London, which had also been the home of Fanny Burney. These now adorn the library of his Amherst fraternity house, Delta Kappa Epsilon.

The collector died at Lewis Farm on July 1, 1936, a few days short of his 81st birthday. The *Columbia University Quarterly* said of him:

"... in all these seemingly diverse activities there is a clear unity: his career was built on the inspiration of making the instruments and the opportunities of learning more rich, more accessible, and more stimulating. He bettered whatever he touched. His life was uncommonly rich and fruitful. He was born a comparatively poor boy; he died a great friend, patron, and exemplar of the high cause of learning, scholarship, and enlightenment."

What Membership in the Friends of the Columbia Libraries Has Meant to Me

C. WALLER BARRETT

AS MY TERM as Chairman draws to its close, I have a distinct feeling of gratitude that the opportunity has come my way to play a role in the development of the Friends' organization. I should say at once that I did not become a member until the birth pangs and growing pains were a thing of the past and the Friends had become a firmly established and thriving concern. The gratitude I feel stems from a casting up of accounts as to what I have been able to accomplish as a member and officer of the Friends and what I have received in return. Striking a balance in this rather hard-boiled manner, I find the scales heavily tipped in the direction of benefits received. This is indeed so obvious that I have sought this opportunity of saying something about what has happened to me in the hope that others will be influenced to share my own experiences.

Speaking generally, it would be difficult to find any association which has a more laudable purpose than a group devoted to the growth and enrichment of a great university library. Since it is generally conceded, nowadays, that the library is the heart of the university, the members of a library group may well feel that their efforts are closely related to the very fundamentals of higher education. To be more specific, the Columbia library is not only one of the outstanding university libraries but also a great research institution in its own right. To be associated with others engaged in the development and enhancement of this particularly impressive example of the ideal in libraries has given me a welcome sense of identification and accomplishment.

I do not speak thoughtlessly or lightly when I say that my association with the other members of the Friends has been one of unalloyed enjoyment. It has been a continuing pleasure to be thrown together with so many individuals of a high level of intellectual attainments and cultural interests. When I speak of Friends of the Libraries, I naturally include members of the Library staff, the University administration and the faculty who have taken such a gratifying interest in the affairs of the Friends.

The functions provided by the Friends' organization have been a periodic source of intellectual stimulation and social diversion. I have watched the Bancroft dinners (sponsored by the Friends and at which all members are invited guests) grow in size and importance; the one held this season set a high-water mark in interest and glamour. I shall long remember the soaring beauty of the Low Memorial Rotunda, product of the genius of Charles Follen McKim of the firm of McKim, Mead & White, with its vast array of tables set with pale blue covers and winking candles, and the waiters in their red coats. I should think the audience that night, in its intellectual distinction, would be hard to equal anywhere.

Among the many occasions on which important material has been presented to the Libraries, there stands out that beautiful and nostalgic evening when Mark Van Doren capped forty years of teaching at Columbia with the gift of his papers. Those present will not soon forget his words, as ever modest and unassuming, nor the words of President Kirk and Dean Barzun. It was indeed quite an emotional affair and moisture was discernible in many eyes.

These functions have all been fully reported in our journal *COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS* (sent without charge to all members), a periodical in which we have the greatest pride. It has been by no means the least accomplishment of the Friends' organization, and in common with many others I have learned to look forward to each number with increasing anticipation.

I could go on, but I think I have given some idea of what it has meant to me to be a member of the Friends. I am certain that the overwhelming majority of our members have had similar experiences. I am equally certain that there are a great many others in this metropolitan community who would derive similar benefits and would find that a modest investment of \$10 or more per year would pay great dividends.



MONCURE DANIEL CONWAY, WALT WHITMAN, AND RALPH WALDO EMERSON. These portraits were made in about 1855, the period referred to in Professor Ridgely's article.

Whitman, Emerson and Friend

J. V. RIDGELY

66 **I** CELEBRATE myself," Walt Whitman announced in the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*, and he was not only to continue the celebration himself but also to draft apostles to help beat the drums. The notable (if sometimes unwitting) press agency of two of these admirers — Ralph Waldo Emerson and Moncure D. Conway — is recalled by a volume now owned by Columbia University which was shown in the Libraries' recent "Highlights" exhibit. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel, the book is a fine copy of the first (1855) edition of *Leaves of Grass* which was presented by the author to Conway; included in it are two interesting association items: a holograph note from Whitman to Conway dated July 21, 1870, and a transcript in Whitman's hand of Emerson's famous letter of July 21, 1855, greeting Whitman "at the beginning of a great career."*

How did Whitman come to send this transcript to Conway? The answer is to be found in the association of the three men which began almost as soon as Whitman first published his book of verse. Conway, former student at the Harvard Divinity School and an enthusiastic Emersonian, had gone to see the master in Concord in the summer of 1855, not long after Emerson had received his gift copy of *Leaves of Grass* from Whitman. Emerson, as enthusiastic in conversation as he was in his letter of "greeting" to Whitman, urged the young Conway to pay a visit to the new poet in Brooklyn. Conway dutifully obeyed, buying a copy of the book to take with him on the steamer to New York. "I read the poem with joy," he later recalled in his *Autobiography*. "Democracy had at length its epic." He was equally taken with the man himself, whom he finally located at work in a printing office

* The letter is reprinted at the end of this article.

in the "fearfully far" reaches of Brooklyn. Whitman told Conway that he was the first to visit him because of his poems, and he eagerly inquired for more news of Emerson. The two men continued their talk on the ferry to New York; and, as Conway reported to Emerson in a letter, he "came off delighted with him . . . He is clearly his Book."

The next year Whitman, having written and published several reviews of his own book in an effort to gain readership, also found a way to turn Emerson into a blurb writer. Without seeking Emerson's permission, he printed the full text of Emerson's personal note in a new edition of *Leaves of Grass*, and managed to have his sentence of "greeting" stamped in gold on the backstrip. Since Whitman had already allowed a newspaper to quote the letter, Emerson might justly have been piqued at this democratic use of his words by his democratic poet. Conway, however, records that Emerson did not complain "seriously," though he did remark that if he had known his letter would have such an audience he "might have qualified his praise." "There are parts of the book where I hold my nose as I read," he confided to Conway, but such sensitivity did not keep him from visiting the poet too.

On a second excursion in 1857, recalled Conway, he took a good look around the bard's home. There were no books about that he could observe, but — somewhat disconcertingly — there were on the bedroom wall two engravings of Silenus and Bacchus. The day, however, passed soberly in a ramble around Staten Island and a long swim. In the 1860's Conway became active in the anti-slavery movement, and during the Civil War he went to England to plump for the Northern cause. It was there, during a long residence as the free-thinking pastor of a London congregation, that he was able to perform his greatest services for Whitman: acting as his literary agent and assisting behind the scenes in W. M. Rossetti's edition of a selection of the poems. Only once did Conway slip in his faithful attention to the Whitman legend and that was in an article which he contributed to an English periodical in

1866. Either recollecting poorly or doctoring his account for greater interest, Conway told of a visit in which he found Whitman lying on the sand in 100-degree heat — a place and attitude, so Whitman informed him, that often aided the composing of his “pomes.” Even worse than this probably fanciful account, so far as Whitman was concerned, was Conway’s recalling those pictures of Silenus and Bacchus. It was an association that could well have been left unrecorded. *Leaves of Grass* had from the beginning been attacked for supposed immorality and obscenity, and Whitman had recently been fired from his government job in Washington after the Secretary of the Interior had scanned his book. Since Whitman had managed to get another post, this suggestion of Bacchic influence, however far in the past, could hardly have been welcome. From this time on Whitman was to remain somewhat suspicious of Conway, though he was obviously too valuable to drop completely.

In 1870 Conway was involved in the plan of an English publisher to reprint some of Emerson’s early writings, and he began collecting reminiscences of Emerson’s old friends. Perhaps the work on this projected volume (which was never published) stirred up memories of Emerson’s relationship with Whitman, for on July 7 he wrote to Whitman and requested a copy of Emerson’s 1855 letter. Whitman replied in the note which is now preserved in the volume in Special Collections:

Washington.

July 21, 1870.

My dear friend,

I have just received your letter of the 7th inst. I appreciate your kindness in the matter of the poem. I send herewith a verbatim copy of Emerson’s note, as requested. Nothing very new or special with me, these days. I am well as usual — am still em-

ployed in the Attorney General's Office. A new edition of my book will be printed this fall [the fifth edition of Leaves of Grass, published 1871], with another small volume in prose [Democratic Vistas, 1871]. You shall have early copies, may-be in sheets.

Farewell for the present. I send you my love — write whenever you can.

Walt Whitman

The "kindness in the matter of the poem" undoubtedly refers to some service of Conway's as Whitman's agent — possibly in connection with a poem which had been accepted by the *Fortnightly Review* but which was never printed in it. Whitman's enclosure, still with the covering letter, is "verbatim," except for a few changes of punctuation and the misreading of a word. (Emerson's original letter is now in Charles E. Feinberg's Collection of Whitmaniana.)

Conway's interest in both Whitman and Emerson continued through their declining years. In 1882 Conway published his anecdotal *Emerson at Home and Abroad*, and with Whitman he maintained a correspondence at least as late as 1887. Whitman in turn had a good deal to say about Conway to his disciple Horace Traubel during his last few years — not all of it favorable. "Conway was always a friend," he told Traubel; but once, after looking at Conway's books on Emerson and Carlyle, he remarked: "Conway always excites both my interest and my suspicion." What Whitman felt was suspicious in Conway was something he had good reason to recognize — the fanciful adaptation of biographical fact. Searching for an example a bit farther from home, Whitman fastened upon Dickens. The novelist, Whitman maintained, had something of the "same makeup as Conway: if a story is not interesting make it so." Whitman could not be ungrateful for Conway's freely given services — but perhaps the memory of those engravings of Silenus and Bacchus still rankled.

EMERSON'S LETTER TO WALT WHITMAN

CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS, 21 *July*, 1855.

Dear Sir —

I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift of "LEAVES OF GRASS." I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed. I am very happy in reading it, as great power makes us happy. It meets the demand I am always making of what seemed the sterile and stingy nature, as if too much handiwork, or too much lymph in the temperament, were making our western wits fat and mean.

I give you joy of your free and brave thought. I have great joy in it. I find incomparable things said incomparably well, as they must be. I find the courage of treatment which so delights us, and which large perception only can inspire.

I greet you at the beginning of a great career, which yet must have had a long foreground somewhere, for such a start. I rubbed my eyes a little, to see if this sunbeam were no illusion; but the solid sense of the book is a sober certainty. It has the best merits, namely, of fortifying and encouraging.

I did not know until I last night saw the book advertised in a newspaper that I could trust the name as real and available for a post-office. I wish to see my benefactor, and have felt much like striking my tasks and visiting New York to pay you my respects.

R. W. Emerson.

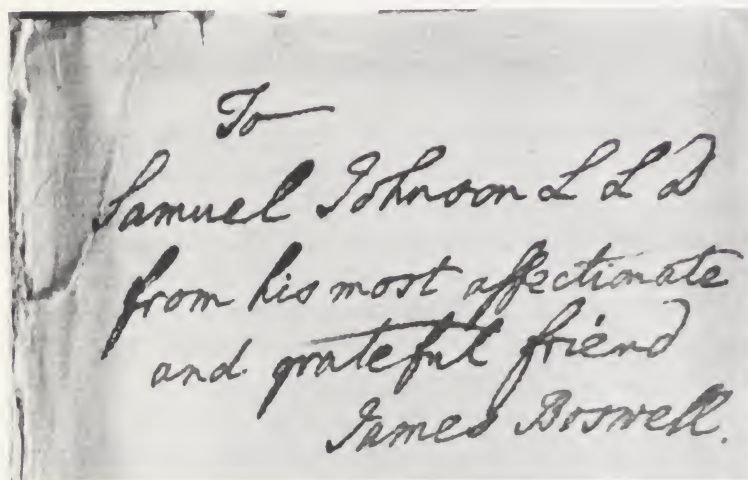
Dr. Johnson at Work: Observations on a Columbia Rare Book

JOHN L. MAHONEY

THE extraordinary range and depth of the literary criticism of Samuel Johnson, the great eighteenth century English man of letters, is too familiar to bear any reexamination. The brilliant and searching studies of scholars like Walter Jackson Bate (*The Achievement of Samuel Johnson*) and Jean Hagstrum (*Samuel Johnson's Literary Criticism*) have provided not only a clear and penetrating view of Johnson's evaluations of specific works of art, but also a thoroughgoing analysis of the basic principles which underly his approach. Johnson's regard for literature as an enlarger of man's mind and spirit, and his insistence on the need for a more stirring and imaginative presentation of truth pervade his reading of Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Pope, and a host of other great English poets. His devotion to the "grandeur of generality," to the great law of probability or truth to life, and his impatience with whatever distorts these ideals to concentrate on what is particular or transitory are fundamental to his analysis of many literary endeavors. "The irregular combinations of fanciful invention," he contends in his famous "Preface to Shakespeare," "may delight a-while, by that novelty of which the common satiety of life sends us all in quest; but the pleasures of sudden wonder are soon exhausted, and the mind can only repose on the stability of truth."

It seemed particularly important to the present writer, therefore, to call attention to a fascinating volume which he recently had the pleasure of examining in the Phoenix Collection of the Department of Special Collections of the Columbia University

Libraries, and which, to the best of his knowledge, has not been commented on previously. It is *The Poems of William Collins*, edited by Robert and Andrew Foulis, and published in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1771. Included in the volume are "Love Elegies by Mr. Hammond written in the year 1732," the Mr. Hammond being James Hammond whose biography Johnson included in his *Lives of the English Poets*.



Inscription on the flyleaf of *The Poems of William Collins* (1771).
(Phoenix Collection)

The volume is of great interest and significance in itself because it is a presentation copy from James Boswell to Johnson. The inscription on the flyleaf reads: "To Samuel Johnson LLD from his most affectionate and grateful friend James Boswell." A note attached to the back cover of the volume bears witness to the authenticity of the dedication. It was written on January 24, 1857, by one of the owners of the book, George Daniel, an author, antiquary, and book collector, and it states: "Presentation copy from *James Boswell* to *Dr. Johnson*. The red ink notes & red ink markings are Johnson's, and were made for his life of Hammond.

The *three stanzas* which he has marked at page 94 he has quoted and condemned in Hammond's life. This highly interesting and valuable little volume is from the library of Peter Cunningham, at the sale of which it fetched Five guineas."

The book is also important because the markings it contains provide a most interesting illustration of Johnson at work and of his approach to a particular author. He had expressed his interest in the volume in question in a letter to Boswell on May 27, 1775. "There are," he writes, "two little books published by the Foulis, Telemachus and Collin's poems, each a shilling: I would be glad to have them."

As suggested previously, the book bears many markings, some of which are typographical corrections, other of which are comments and critical notations. All of these markings refer to the so-called love elegies of Hammond, and one is of major importance not only because it reveals a very dominant attitude in Johnson's criticism, but also because it has specific connections with his life of Hammond. For example, the ninth elegy, "He has lost Delia," a maudlin pastoral bemoaning the agony and sorrow following the loss of a mistress, was apparently a particular object of Johnson's wrath. He has carefully marked the seventh, eighth, and ninth stanzas which are quoted here:

Wilt thou in tears thy lover's corse attend?
With eyes averted light the solemn pyre,
Till all around the doleful flames ascend,
Then slowly thinning, by degrees expire:

To sooth the hov'ring soul be thine the care,
With plaintive cries to lead the mournful band,
In sable weeds the golden vase to bear,
And cull my ashes with thy trembling hand:

Panchaia's odours be their costly feast,
And all the price of Asia's fragrant year,
Give them the treasures of the farthest east,
And, what is still more precious, give thy tear.

Interestingly enough, these three stanzas, as noted before, are the same ones quoted and treated so harshly in the life of Hammond. Johnson, always impatient with pastoral themes and techniques, and using the same argument that he employed in his critique of Milton's "Lycidas," charges that the stanzas, as well as the whole pastoral approach, lack truth. Surely, he says, referring to the lover's plea in the three stanzas, "no blame can fall upon a nymph who rejected a swain of so little meaning." Arguing at greater length, he contends:

But the truth is, these Elegies have neither passion, nature, or manners. Where there is fiction, there is no passion; he that describes himself a shepherd, and his Neaera or Delia as a shepherdess, and talks of goats and lambs, feels no passion. He that courts his mistress with Roman imagery deserves to lose her; for she may with good reason suspect his sincerity. Hammond has few sentiments drawn from nature, and few images drawn from modern life. He produces nothing but frigid pedantry. It would be hard to find in all his productions three stanzas that deserve to be remembered.

Another marking in the book notes that the seventh elegy is "unnatural"; still another suggests that the poems have "no life." In short, the comments and notations are excellent examples of Johnson applying his great criterion of probability to works involving the pastoral and mythological and finding these works wanting. The volume provides an interesting picture of a great critic at work.

An Unpublished Hart Crane Poem

While searching among the Hart Crane Papers in the Columbia University Libraries for materials which would contribute to a critical biography of the poet, the late Jethro Robinson came on the following early, hitherto unpublished poem. Written when Crane was sixteen, the little fable which the poem recites seemed to Mr. Robinson to be a significant revelation of the young poet's humble aspiration and a portent of what he was more successfully to accomplish in the future. In fact, Mr. Robinson had tentatively titled the first section of his study "The Moth That God Made Blind." The drafts of Mr. Robinson's uncompleted work, his notes and outlines, and his correspondence with friends and relatives of the poet have been presented to the Columbia University Library as "The Jethro Robinson Addenda to the Hart Crane Papers". — Lewis Leary.

THE MOTH THAT GOD MADE BLIND

Among cocoa-nut palms of a far oasis,
Conceived in the light of Arabian moons,
There are butterflies born in mosaic date-vases,
That emerge black and vermeil from yellow cocoons.

Some say that for sweetness they cannot see far, —
That their land is too gorgeous to free their eyes wide
To horizons which knife-like would only mar
Their joy with a barren and steely tide —

That they only can see when their moon limits vision,
Their mother, the moon, marks a halo of light
On their own small oasis, ray-cut, an incision,
Where are set all the myriad jeweleries of night.

So they sleep in the shade of black palm-bark at noon,
Blind only in day, but remembering that soon
She will flush their hid wings in the evening to blaze
Countless rubies and tapers in the oasis' blue haze.

But over one moth's eyes were tissues at birth
Too multiplied even to center his gaze
On that circle of paradise cool in the night; —
Never came light through that honey-thick glaze.

And had not his pinions with signs mystical
And rings macrocosmic won envy as thrall,
They had scorned him, so humbly¹ [?] low, bound there and tied
At night like a grain of sand, futile and dried.

But once though, he learned of that span of his wings, —
The fluorescence, the power he felt bud at the time
When the others were blinded by all waking things;
And he ventured the desert, — his wings took the climb.

And lo, in that dawn he was pierrotting over, —
Swinging in spirals round the fresh breasts of day.
The moat of the desert was melting from clover
To yellow, — to crystal, — a sea of white spray —

Til the sun, he still gyrating, shot out all white, —
Though a black god to him in a dizzying night; —
And without one cloud-car in that wide meshless blue
The sun saw a ruby brightening ever, that flew.

Seething and rounding in long streams of light
The heat led the moth up in octopus arms:
The honey-wax eyes could find no alarms,
But they burned thinly blind like an orange peeled white.

And the torrid hum of great wings was his song
When below him he saw what his whole race had shunned —
Great horizons and systems and shores all along
Which blue tides of cool moons were slow shaken and sunned.

¹ Crane wrote "himbly".

A little time only, for sight burned as deep
As his blindness before had frozen in Hell,
And his wings atom-withered, — gone, — left but a leap: —
To the desert, — back, — down, — still lonely he fell.

I have hunted long years for a spark in the sand; —
My eyes have hugged beauty and winged life's short¹ spell.
These things I have: — a withered hand; —
Dim eyes; — a tongue that cannot tell.

(HAROLD) HART CRANE

¹ Tentatively amended to "brief" on the manuscript.

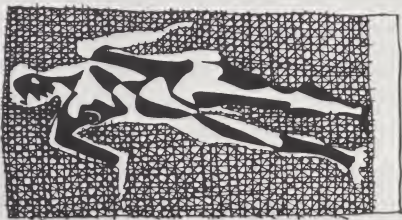
Notable Purchases, 1959-60

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

In each November issue of LIBRARY COLUMNS we undertake to draw the attention of our readers to the purchase, through the use of regular or special Library funds, of certain rare or unusual books and manuscripts during the preceding year. This is the third article in the series, which was begun in 1958 — EDITOR.

BEYOND question, the most important purchase made during the past year was that of the private library formed by the late Professor Arthur Jeffery. This collection, numbering more than 5,000 titles, has been assembled by Professor Jeffery over many years, and represents his scholarly activity and authoritative interest in Near Eastern studies. It is particularly rich in works relating to the Koran and includes numerous extremely rare printed editions — as well as manuscripts — of various texts, translations and commentaries. (This group of Koranic materials is probably without equal in any private library.) There are also many biographical and critical studies of Mohammed, works on Arabic grammar and ancient poetry, on Semitic culture in general, on the Bible and on Christian theology. In addition there are numerous photographic copies of Arabic manuscripts in various Near Eastern libraries.

Columbia's interest in the history and literature of the Near East is of long standing, and was fostered by the gift in 1931 of the David Eugene Smith library which had strong holdings in Koranic and other Persian and Arabic manuscripts. In keeping with this avowed enthusiasm of Dr. Smith, we have been able to acquire in the past year, through the endowment established in 1944, a fine group of nine Near Eastern manuscripts. Among these are six copies of the Koran and a volume of religious poems, in the main beautifully written, illuminated and bound, produced



Vers la fin de l'année 1612, par une froide matinée de décembre, un jeune homme dont le vêtement était de très-mince apparence, se promenait devant la porte d'une maison située rue des Grands-Augulins, à Paris. Après avoir assez long-temps marché dans cette rue avec l'irrésolution d'un amant qui n'ose se présenter chez la première maîtresse, quelque facile qu'elle soit, il finit par franchir le seuil de cette porte, et demanda

in the 18th and 19th centuries. Of particular interest are two scroll manuscripts of astrological tables, including almanacs and times for prayers, in the exquisite calligraphy of Sulaimān Hikmatī, dated A.H. 1211 (1791/2) and A.H. 1217 (1798/9) respectively.

Other individual book manuscripts that have been purchased during the year include eight of various dates from the late 15th to the 18th century. The earliest is a manuscript on paper of Boethius' *De consolazione philosophiae*, written in Germany about 1500 (Lodge Collection). A student's manual in Latin, written in the early 16th century on twelve paper leaves, was also purchased (Smith Collection). An unusually interesting item, a "registrum" in Latin comprising a record of custom receipts and disbursements, public works, housing, salaries of the clergy, etc., in various parts of Poland, 1532 to 1535, was purchased with general funds, as were two Latin manuscripts relating to the Cabala. One of the latter, "Tractatus Cabalisticus", on 89 paper leaves, was written in Italy in the 17th century. The other, *Cabala id est scientia occulta*, is on 24 vellum leaves and is of Italian 18th-century origin. Three mathematical manuscripts were purchased for the Smith Collection: Mathias Cupel's *Mundus Mathematicus*, comprising 99 paper leaves of lecture notes taken down by the author's pupil, Ferdinand Franz Schwartz, in 1681-2, and with which is bound Cupel's lectures at Prague on statics, hydrostatics and aerostatics; Pitet's *La Cosmographie*, 1705, a manuscript on paper in which twenty-two engraved folding plates have been inserted; and *L'Usage du compas de proportion*, an 18th-century French manuscript that is apparently unpublished.

A few later manuscripts have also been acquired. These include: two letters by William Dean Howells, dated March 19, 1897, and February 19, 1905; a leaf containing a twenty-four line poem by N. P. Willis, presumably in his hand; and two letters of Winston S. Churchill, the earlier dated September 19, 1908, and the other, which is undated (about 1909) addressed to Edward VII and bearing the latter's autograph notation, "Appd ER".

Wm
in

Winston Churchill,
Whitehall Palace,
S.W.

Mr Churchill, with his humble duty to Your Majesty,
has the honour to recommend that the persons named
on the accompanying statements should be awarded the
medals mentioned therein, in recognition of the
gallantry displayed by them in saving life.

Winston S. Churchill

Undated letter written about 1909 by Winston S. Churchill to Edward VII. The latter's autograph notation appears at the top.

Eight 15th-century printed items were purchased for addition to the Gonzalez Lodge Classical Library. The earliest is an Italian translation of Justinus' *Epitomae*, Venice, 1477. An edition of Terence's *Comoediae*, published in Lyon by Jean du Pre in 1488, of which no other copy is recorded as being in the United States, was also acquired. Other incunabula include: Cicero, *De officiis*, Venice, 1493; Diodorus Siculus, *Bibliothecae historicae*, Venice, 1496; Suetonius, *Vitae XII Caesarum*, Venice, 1496; Dionysius Halicarnaseus, *Antiquitates Romanae*, Reggio Emilia, 1498; Luchinus de Aretio, *De prologis*, Venice, 1498 (unrecorded in the U. S.); and Apuleius, *Asinus Aureus*, Bologna, 1500.

By far the majority of books purchased for the Lodge Collection fell into the general category of 16th and 17th-century re-dactions, mainly by continental scholars. Three English works, however, deserve special mention. These are: the London, 1553, edition of the English translation of *The Golden Boke of Marcus Aurelius*; Richard Reynoldes' *A Chronicle of all the noble emperours of the Romaines* (London, 1571); and the first edition of Thomas May's *A Continuation of the subject of Lucans historical poem till the death of Julius Caesar* (London, 1630).

An acquisition of signal importance to the Law Library is the very rare first edition of *Constitutiones legitime seu legatine religionis anglicane . . .*, printed in Paris by Wolfgang Hopyl, 1504. The volume consists of two parts. The first contains the "legatine" constitutions — that is, the canons proclaimed in England by the papal legates Otto and Ottobono in the years 1237 and 1268 respectively. These constitutions are extensively annotated by a certain John of Ayton (variously termed Athon, Acton, Eaton), a canon of Lincoln, who wrote his commentary during the years from 1333 to 1348. The second part contains provincial canons promulgated by the archbishops of Canterbury from the time of Stephen Langton, at the council of Oxford in 1222, to the early years of the 15th century.

The East Asiatic Library reports the purchase of the great

Dai-Nihon zoku zokyo, in 750 volumes, published in Kyoto, 1905-1912. This indispensable tool of scholarship contains treatises by Japanese priests, as well as certain Buddhist texts not found in other Tripitaka.

One volume purchased for Special Collections by means of the fund recently established by Ruth Ulmann Samuel in honor of her father, Albert Ulmann, is of extraordinary significance to our graphic arts holdings. It is the great folio edition of Balzac's *Le chef-d'oeuvre inconnu*, printed in Paris in 1931. This magnificent volume represents all that is finest in recent French bookmaking. It combines text by Balzac with brilliant typographical treatment by Aimé Jourde and with superb illustrations by Picasso. These last comprise thirteen original etchings and sixty-seven other designs which were cut on wood for Picasso by Aubert. The edition consisted of 305 copies, of which this is No. 139.

Our Growing Collections

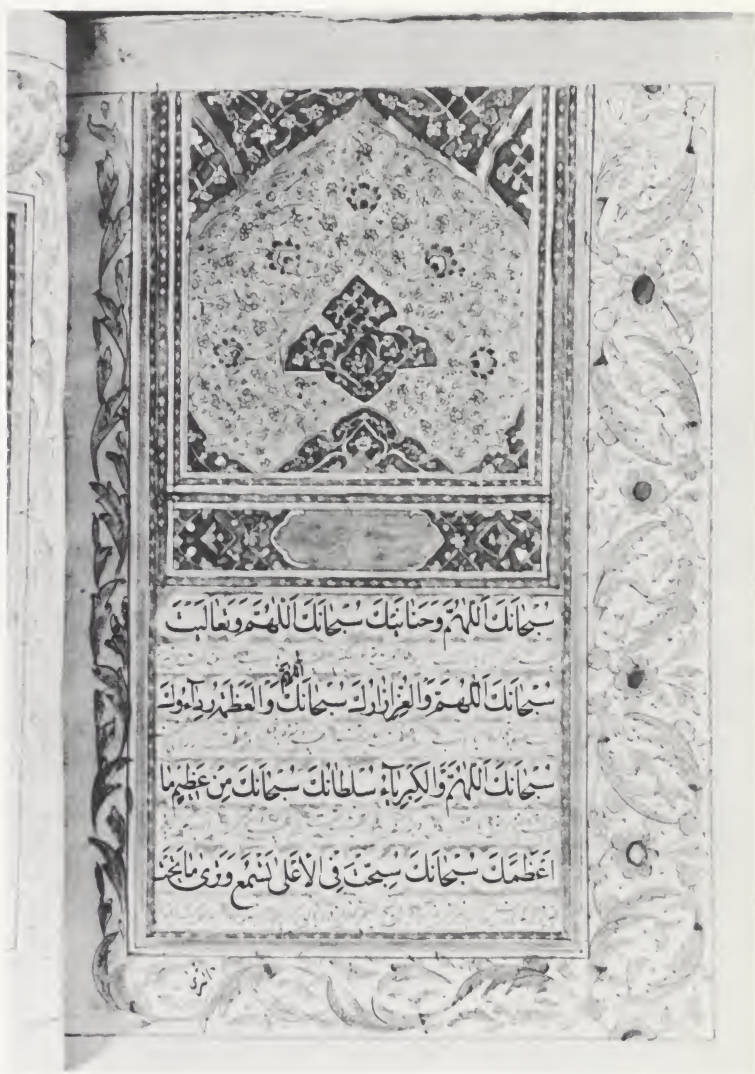
ROLAND BAUGHMAN

A.I.G.A. gift. The American Institute of Graphic Arts continues its project of making Columbia University the repository of a definitive file of the award-winning books in the "Fifty Books of the Year" series. Receipt of the selections of the year 1958 brings the series virtually up to date, and opens the way for serious students to observe in a single place the important tendencies in American book design since 1923.

Anshen gift. As the executor of the estate of the late Professor Ernest Jäckh, Dr. Ruth Nanda Anshen has presented a collection of his papers to Columbia University. The collection as received comprises sixteen file boxes and twelve scrapbooks of photographs and clippings, and more than fifty letters, dated 1908-1913, largely concerned with the publication and review of Professor Jäckh's voluminous scholarly writings. Much of the material reflects his keen interest in German-Turkish relations and his expeditions into the Near East.

Bodenheim gift. Miss Addie S. Bodenheim of New York has generously presented three fine letters written to her by Justice Benjamin Cardozo (A.B., 1889; A.M., 1890; LL.D. Hon., 1915).

Bonom gift. A year ago we acknowledged in these pages the gift by Mr. Paul J. Bonom of a fine series of long-playing records which replaced outworn 78's that had been available to students in the Music Library. Mr. Bonom continues his thoughtful generosity, most recently presenting some fifty volumes selected from his library, chiefly relating to art and American history.



EL-JAMALI GIFT. A sample page from the manuscript of Shi'ah prayers in Arabic and Persian script.

Burgess gift. Mrs. Elisha Payne Jewett Burgess (A.B., 1918 B) has commenced the gracious task of selecting materials from her personal files to form at Columbia the "John W. Burgess Family Collection". Many items have already been received — letters, photographs, and various memorabilia — but there will be much to add and describe in the months to come.

Clark gift. Professor and Mrs. Donald L. Clark (A.M., 1906; Ph. D., 1911) have presented a group of thirteen useful first editions by modern authors. The majority of the volumes bear presentation inscriptions from the authors to Professor Clark.

Dixon gift. Sir Pierson John Dixon has placed in our care the original typescript of his Latin poem, "Corcyra", which was awarded the Montague Butler prize in 1925.

Dow memorial gift. Staff Sergeant Richard Dow has presented the library formed by his father, the late George W. Dow. The collection comprises 680 volumes of general nature.

Eberstadt gift. Mr. Lindley Eberstadt (A.B., 1932) has presented a remarkable collection of 121 books and pamphlets, dated between 1795 and 1840, many of which bear the authors' inscriptions to James Kent, the first professor of law at Columbia College who subsequently presided over the State Court of Chancery. The items apparently came from Kent's own library, and are extremely welcome here because of our interest in reconstructing the personal collection of one of Columbia's foremost figures.

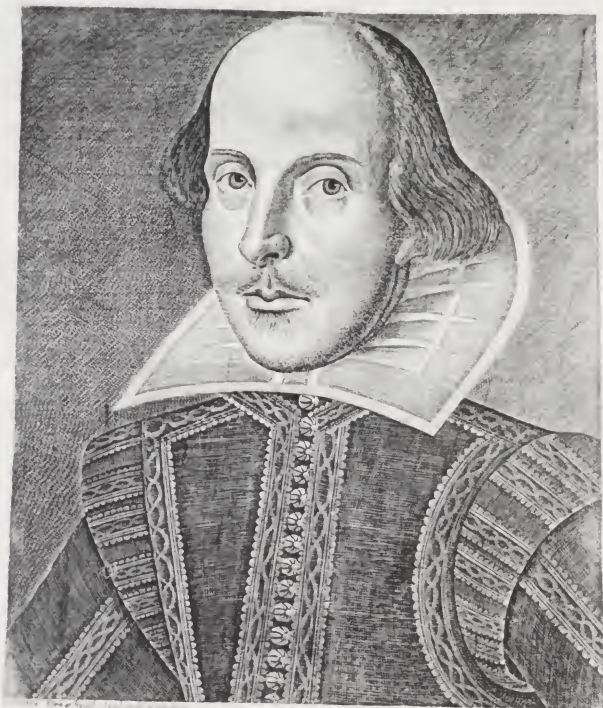
El-Jamali gift. Dr. Fadhil El-Jamali, through the good offices of his son, Mr. Usameh El-Jamali, recently presented a beautiful manuscript of Shi'ah prayers in Arabic and Persian script, dated A.H. 1247 (A.D. 1831), as a token of his affection for President Kirk and Columbia University. The volume is an exquisite specimen of Near Eastern bookmaking, with the Arabic version in black ink, interlined with the Persian translation in red.

M^r. WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARES

Comedies , Histories, and Tragedies:

Published according to the true Original Copies.

The Third Impression



L O N D O N,
Printed for Philip Chetwilde, 1663

SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS, THIRD FOLIO. (Gift of Mr. and Mrs.
Solton Engel)

Engel gift. In February, 1959, we reported that Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel had carried Columbia University a long way toward our goal of having all four of the great 17th-century folios of Shakespeare's plays represented on our shelves. At that time Mr. and Mrs. Engel had presented a beautiful copy of the Fourth (1685) Folio, leaving only the Third (1663/4) as a lacuna.

Now we can report that Mr. and Mrs. Engel have accomplished the nearly impossible. They have found and presented a matchless copy of the first variety of the Third Folio — "London, Printed for Philip Chetwinde, 1663".

This volume contains the title-page in its first state, date 1663 and bearing the Droeshout portrait of Shakespeare; the famous verse by Ben Jonson, "To the Reader", appears alone on the leaf facing the title. As our readers know, the second state of this edition omits the portrait from the title-page, and the third state, dated 1664 (really a new edition, though it is not so called), lists seven additional plays of which only "Pericles" is now (and only in part) attributed to Shakespeare. Copies with the 1664 title have the second state of Jonson's verses, in which they appear beneath the portrait of Shakespeare on the leaf preceding the title.

Thus Mr. and Mrs. Engel have completed a series that was begun for us in 1881, when the First Folio (1623) came to Columbia in the bequest of Stephen Whitney Phoenix.

Fellows gift. Miss Harriette L. Fellows, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has generously presented eight Civil War letters to Columbia, as well as other memorabilia of the period. The letters were written to Miss Fellows' grandfather, Augustus Lafever of Battle Creek, Michigan, by two of his workmen, George Barnes and Henry Berry.

Frick gift. Professor Bertha M. Frick has presented a number of items from her shelves relating to David Eugene Smith, whose mathematical library is one of Columbia's chief treasures. Miss

Frick was formerly Curator of the Plimpton, Smith, and Dale collections, and among the items presented are some which were inscribed to her personally by Dr. Smith.

Friedman gift. These pages are almost never without an acknowledgment to Harry G. Friedman (Ph.D., 1908) for his gifts to the Library collections. On the present occasion we are especially grateful, for the items he has sent are truly exceptional. Space does not permit a full listing. Suffice it to say that the gift includes eight beautiful Arabic and Persian manuscripts, all Korans except for an early copy (1562/3) of Jami's poem "Joseph and Potiphar's Wife"; two fine Chinese documents written and embroidered on long scrolls of silk, and bearing citations of titles in Chinese and Mandarin; three silver-gilt repoussé bindings; an original Chinese water-colored drawing, framed; a collection of twenty-three books, including a *Golden Legend* printed at Venice in 1480 and a copy of Livy's *Decades* printed at Venice in 1495. In addition there are 49 prints of works by William Hogarth and four color-plates from Wheatley's "Cries of London" series.

Gaccione gift. The twelve volumes comprising the Marquis Biographical Library have been generously presented to the Casa Italiana by Mr. Anthony S. Gaccione.

Gallagher gift. Mr. Thomas Gallagher (A.B., 1941) has presented the original typewritten manuscript, with autograph alterations, of his famous novel, *Fire at Sea*.

Hathaway gift. Two interesting scrapbooks have been presented by Mr. Calvin S. Hathaway. The volumes contain clippings collected by Mr. Hathaway's grandfather, Byron Groo of Salt Lake City. Mr. Hathaway writes: "The clippings were pasted into these scrapbooks in the office of my grandfather, Byron Groo, apparently during the period of his editorship of the Salt Lake City *Herald* from 1875 to 1892, and I suspect that some of them may be editorials that he wrote himself."

Heydecker gift. Mr. Wayne D. Heydecker (A.B., 1911) has presented a most unusual item, a lecture on Constitutional Law which he found among the papers of his father, Edward LeMoyne Heydecker (A.B., 1883; A.M., 1884; LL.B., 1885). The work, which is entitled "Constitutional History of the United States", is a gelatin-process reproduction of the original manuscript.

Hofe gift. In the November, 1954, issue of the *Columns*, we acknowledged the gift of the three rare Woodrow Wilson books by Mr. George Douglas Hofe (B.S., 1914; A.M., 1915, TC). Mr. Hofe has again shown his interest and generosity by presenting another Wilson item, the rare, privately-printed edition of the inaugural address that was delivered on March 4, 1913.

Jay gift. Columbia University now has in its collections some 5,000 original letters to and from John Jay. The majority of these have come in two large groups, but we are also much in the debt of various descendants of Jay for the generous gift of scores of letters which they had carefully preserved in honor of their illustrious ancestor.

Recently yet another descendant has joined with us in our effort to preserve Jay's original correspondence. Mr. John Jay of Williamstown, Massachusetts, has presented six remarkable letters from Jay to his son, Peter Augustus Jay, dating from May 14, 1815, to June 20, 1817.

Jeffery gift. Mrs. Arthur Jeffery has presented a collection of the manuscripts (published and unpublished), notes, card files, clippings, and miscellanea pertaining to her husband, the late Professor Arthur Jeffery, long a beloved member of the faculty of Columbia University. Professor Jeffery was an internationally known authority on the Koran, and his private papers will be a mine of information for his colleagues.

Joffe gift. Recently Dr. Judah A. Joffe (A.B., 1893) found

among the offerings of a European book-dealer a pristine copy of Laurentius Valla's *Elegantiae linguae Latinae*, Venice, 1499. Upon learning that Columbia did not possess any 15th-century edition of this work, he generously offered to purchase the volume for us.

Kawabata gift. Mr. Yasunari Kawabata of Kamakura, Japan, has made a most generous and thoughtful gift of two notebooks containing manuscript jottings by Lafcadio Hearn. The gift was made to Columbia through Professor Donald Keene at the time of his visit to Japan during the past summer.

Hearn's notebooks are eagerly sought by collectors, through whose benefactions they have for the most part come to rest in permanent research institutions. They are of great interest to scholars, for they contain the notes, memoranda, sketches, adumbrations of later writings, and the like of one of the world's great literary artists. Columbia is delighted and grateful to have been chosen as the repository of such treasures.

Korean Publishers gift. The Korean Publishers' Association of Seoul has given the East Asiatic Library over 300 volumes of Korean-language materials selected for display at the 1960 International Book Exhibition. The publications, all recent imprints, are primarily in the fields of the humanities and the social sciences; valuable reference works are represented.

National Central Library gift. The National Central Library of the Republic of China, through its Director, Dr. Chiang Fu-tsung, presented to the East Asiatic Library the entire 1,657 volumes of Chinese books displayed at the International Book Exhibition at Columbia University in June. Especially prominent among the publications are the 954-volume set of the twenty-five dynastic histories in which is recorded all official history of China up to the Republican Era, and a 6-volume work containing reproductions of 300 masterpieces of Chinese paintings selected from the Palace Museum collection.

Nicholls gift. Mr. E. M. Nicholls of Sydney, Australia, has added to an exceptional collection in Avery Library of the architectural drawings of Walter Burley Griffin (1876–1937). The present gift comprises twenty-seven drawings, mostly in ink and wash, some in the Japanese technique on silk, and all of remarkable beauty. Mr. Griffin, a Chicago architect, was a friend and associate of Frank Lloyd Wright. He won the international competition for the design of a national Capital in Australia, Canberra, and subsequently moved there to practice his profession. Mr. Nicholls, the donor of these drawings, was his partner in Sydney.

Plimpton gift. Mr. Francis T. P. Plimpton has added three scarce American editions of books that are gratefully received in the library formed by his father, the late George A. Plimpton.

Robinson gift. Mrs. Belle B. Robinson has kindly presented the manuscripts and notes which her son, the late Jethro Robinson (A.B., 1943; A.M., 1950), had amassed in his study of the work of the American poet, Hart Crane. The collection, which is to be known as “The Jethro Robinson Hart Crane Papers”, contains much that will be valuable to students and scholars. The letters from Crane’s relatives give information about him and his family which could be had from no other source.

Sanford gift. Professor Vera Sanford (A.M., 1922 TC; Ph.D., 1927 TC) has deposited the notes and transcriptions of commentary on the Latin poet Juvenal gathered by her sister, the late Eva Sanford. The notes cover manuscript and early printed sources from classical times to 1600.

Schimmel gift. Mr. Stuart B. Schimmel has presented a fine autograph letter from John Jay to his son, Peter Augustus Jay, written on December 7, 1799. The letter is of especial interest to Columbia, for we already possess the related correspondence, which

deals with various matters pertaining to the building of Bedford House near Katonah, New York.

Tindall gift. Professor William York Tindall (A.B., 1925; A.M., 1926) has donated a fine copy of the privately printed edition of his *Beckett's Bums*, London, for T. E. Hanley, 1960.

Van Doren gift. Professor Mark Van Doren (Ph.D., 1921), whose gift of his manuscripts and notes was the theme of the Annual Meeting of the Friends on January 18, 1960, has added a remarkable collection of 98 letters to him from various noted authors. The collection includes letters from Mary Austin, Havelock Ellis, Amy Lowell, George Sterling, and many others, but those from John Gould Fletcher represent the longest and most numerous series (50 letters, June 3, 1927, to June 25, 1940).

Vermont University gift. Through the good offices of Mr. David Stoller, Curator of the Collections in the University of Vermont Library, ten early mathematical works have been added to the David Eugene Smith collection.

Activities of the Friends

Finances

As announced in the spring, the November issue rather than the May issue of *Columns* will from now on regularly contain the annual statement as to the amount which has been contributed by the Friends during the twelve-month period ending on March 31. This shift was necessitated by reason of our having moved back into March the deadline for the May issue in order that the latter might reach our members before they departed on their vacations.

During the period from April 1, 1959, to March 31, 1960, \$7,407.67 in unrestricted funds and \$5,280.38 for specified purposes were received, making a total of \$12,688.05. The total cash gifts from the Friends over the past nine years now amount to \$160,810.81.

The comparative figures for contributions by our members during the past years are indicated in the following table.

	<i>Cash Gifts</i>			<i>Book and manuscript gifts</i>	<i>Total value of gifts</i>
	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>For special purposes</i>	<i>Total</i>		
1950-52 *	\$4,348.00	\$41.00	\$4,389.00	\$2,515.00	\$6,904.00
1952-53	4,423.00	4,132.98	8,555.98	43,653.00	52,208.98
1953-54	3,166.00	13,223.50	16,389.50	53,643.00	70,032.50
1954-55	2,413.00	29,930.00	32,343.00	15,251.00	47,594.00
1955-56	4,470.50	13,977.00	18,447.50 **	22,380.80	40,828.30 **
1956-57	3,755.00	28,974.96	32,729.96	17,936.85	50,666.81
1957-58	5,463.50	15,477.12	20,940.62	67,791.09	88,731.71
1958-59	5,516.20	8,811.00	14,327.20	13,299.25	27,626.45
1959-60	7,407.67	5,280.38	12,688.05	36,980.25	49,668.30
	\$40,962.87	\$119,847.94	\$160,810.81	\$273,450.24	\$434,261.05

* December 1950-March, 1952. Subsequent years begin April 1 and end March 31. As of March 31, our association had 374 members.

** Corrected figures.

In addition to the monetary gifts, the Friends have during the above-indicated year augmented the Libraries' resources for research by presenting rare books, manuscripts, and other items which have an estimated value of \$36,980.25. (The principal items have been described in "Our Growing Collections".)

Meetings

Fall Meeting on November 17. As we go to press, plans are being completed for the first meeting of the new academic year, which will be held in Wollman Auditorium in Ferris Booth Hall on the above-indicated date. The program will have the general title "Exploring the Ocean Depths". The speaker for the occasion will be Dr. William Maurice Ewing, the Director of the Lamont Geological Laboratory of Columbia University who is one of the foremost explorers of the ocean. He will draw upon experiences which he has had as leader of expeditions to the polar regions, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and around the world on the University's research ship, the Vema.

CREDIT

The plate showing two illustrations by Picasso is reproduced from Balzac's *Le chef-d'oeuvre inconnu* (Paris, A. Vollard, 1931).

THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES

PRIVILEGES

INVITATIONS to exhibitions, lectures and other special events.

USE OF BOOKS in the reading rooms of the libraries.

OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT LIBRARIANS, including those in charge of the specialized collections, about material of interest to a member. (Each Division Head has our members' names on file.)

OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE most Columbia University Press books at 20 per cent discount (through the Secretary-Treasurer of the Friends).

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS.

* * *

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL. Any person contributing not less than \$10.00 per year (dues may be waived for officers of the University).

CONTRIBUTING. Any person contributing not less than \$25.00 a year.

SUSTAINING. Any person contributing not less than \$50.00 a year.

BENEFACTOR. Any person contributing not less than \$100.00 a year.

Checks should be made payable to Columbia University. All donations are deductible for income tax purposes.

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